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* The compilation of data required to provide the Executive Board with the most current information has delayed the submission of the present report.

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I. Organizational matters

1. The second regular session 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA met from 11 to 13 September in New York. At the session, the Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 2006 (DP/2006/L.3), as orally amended, and the report of its annual session 2006 (DP/2006/35).

2. The Executive Board agreed, in decision 2006/37, to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2007:

First regular session 2007:	19 to 26 January 2007
Annual session 2007:	11 to 22 June 2007 (New York)
Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007

3. The Executive Board adopted 10 decisions, including the overview of decisions. The compendium of decisions adopted is available on the Executive Board Secretariat web site at www.undp.org/execbrd.

UNDP segment

II. Statement by the Administrator and Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

4. In his statement to the Executive Board, the Administrator remembered the victims of the terrorist attacks launched on the United States five years earlier and, reiterating the position of the Secretary General, recalled that such acts constitute direct attacks on the core values of the United Nations.

5. The Administrator took stock of most salient events shaping the international development agenda since his last address to the Executive Board and outlined some of the key issues facing UNDP.

(a) Following the events in the Middle East, UNDP supported the governments of Lebanon and Sweden in the successful convening of a donor conference some two weeks after the cease-fire.

(b) While the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and the advancement of reforms that will enhance the participation of developing countries in IMF decision-making processes were encouraging, the suspension of the Doha trade negotiations constituted a setback for those seeking broader pro-development trade reforms.

(c) UNDP has sought to address the intrinsic tension between long-term development effects and the need to demonstrate tangible results through a focus on capacity development.

(d) Since the adoption of an international development agenda anchored in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNDP and United Nations country office efforts have focused on the development of methodologies and

routines for the monitoring and reporting on the MDGs. The halfway point in the 2000-2015 time period calls for a greater sense of urgency and heralds the advent more intensive policy work in three areas: (i) MDG diagnostics, investment and planning; (ii) widening policy options; and (iii) national capacity to deliver.

(c) The High-Level Panel has concluded its discussions, reaching a consensus on the need for greater cohesiveness between the various parts of the United Nations development system and on the recognition that UNDP may be the most appropriate body to manage the resident coordinator system. UNDP will, however, have to change, by limiting its operational work to strengthening the coherence and positioning of the United Nations country team. It will need to withdraw from those programmatic activities for which other United Nations actors have the competencies.

6. The Administrator introduced the new Director of the Bureau of Management and announced the appointment of a new Director of the gender team as part of the ongoing endeavours to strengthen the management team. He added that the management and workflow review process had entered a second phase focused on enhancing country office capacities, while measures had been undertaken to strengthen audit, oversight and support mechanisms for improved accountability.

7. As was reported in the annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (DP/2006/37 and addendum), total income to UNDP increased 20 per cent in nominal terms over the period. The growth of non-core resources to UNDP outpaced core growth, resulting in a sub-optimal ratio between resources that enable UNDP to fulfil its mandate effectively and flexibly and those that are earmarked to varying degrees.

8. The Administrator introduced the report on the technical cooperation expenditures in 2005 (DP/2006/38 and addendum); the report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005, including detailed procurement statistics and analysis for the United Nations System (DP/2006/39, DP/2006/40 and corrigendum); and the report on the current practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates and clear cost-recovery criteria (DP/2006/41).

9. Delegations thanked the Administrator for his presentation and welcomed the newly appointed members of the management team. Members of the Board concurred with much of the analysis made by the Administrator, stressed the urgency of promoting of the MDG agenda and welcomed the sharpened focus of UNDP in support of the MDGs. Recognizing the difficulty of measuring development results, delegations nevertheless called on UNDP to continue building an appropriate framework to measure such results. Delegations welcomed the overall trend in funding to UNDP but echoed the concern of the Administrator over the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

10. Members welcomed the update on the work of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, and, while looking forward to its final report, expressed their overall support for a tighter United Nations presence at the country office level.

11. The Executive Board adopted decisions 2006/28, 2006/29 and 2006/30 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (UNDP), on the report of the Inter-

Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005, and on the report on the current practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates and clear cost-recovery criteria, respectively.

III. Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Country programmes

12. The Associate Administrator invited delegations to review and comment on the draft country programmes submitted for consideration. A group of delegations made a joint statement calling on UNDP to strengthen its consultation processes in the formulation of country programme documents in all regions. The statement noted that some consultation processes at the country level had not being extended to all key stakeholders, including civil society, or had been extended too late to allow them sufficient time to give feedback. In that regard, the statement highlighted the importance of the resident coordinator, as head of the United Nations country team (UNCT), in keeping lines of communication open among key stakeholders (even in challenging circumstances), and of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), where they existed, in guiding the UNCT in developing country programme documents to achieve key outcomes.

13. The Associate Administrator informed delegations that the Administrator had approved one-year extensions for the country programmes for Colombia, Equatorial Guinea and Suriname, and the regional programmes for Africa and for Asia and the Pacific (DP/2006/42/Rev.1). The Associate Administrator invited members to comment on and approve the request for the first two-year extension of the second country programme for Sudan.

14. The Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented the report of the assessment mission to Myanmar (phase IV of the Human Development Initiative), the respective note by the Administrator and draft country programmes for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Laos and Mongolia.

15. The Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, presented draft country programmes for the Central African Republic, Eritrea, the Gambia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

16. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for the Arab States, introduced the two-year extension of the country programme for Sudan and draft country programme documents for Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Somalia.

17. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, presented draft country programmes for Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro.

18. The Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, introduced the extensions of the country programmes for Colombia and Suriname, and draft country programme documents for Belize, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

19. Comments on the draft country programmes were noted for submission to the respective countries, to be taken into consideration in finalizing the country programmes.

20. The Executive Board took note of the one-year country programme extensions previously approved by the Administrator and approved the first two-year extension for the programme for Sudan. A group of delegations called on UNDP to strengthen consultation processes in the formulation of country programmes and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

21. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/32 welcoming the Republic of Montenegro.

Report of the UNDP assessment mission to Myanmar

22. The Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented a note by the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar that summarized the major findings and recommendations of the annual independent assessment of the UNDP Human Development Initiative (HDI), phase IV, in Myanmar, conducted in May-June 2006 in accordance with the guidelines set out in Governing Council decision 93/21 and Executive Board decisions 96/1, 98/14, 2001/15, 2003/2, 2004/2, 2005/3, 2005/42 and 2006/2.

23. The 2006 mission concluded that HDI-IV was being implemented in compliance with the mandate established by the Governing Council and Executive Board of UNDP in terms of reaching the poor and vulnerable in rural areas of Myanmar with humanitarian assistance. The mission noted that HDI provided an important showcase of international best practices in participatory development in Myanmar.

24. Given the continuing humanitarian needs and the HDI record of achievements, the mission found numerous reasons for continuing the HDI without interruption, and recommended that UNDP accelerate its preparations for an extension of the HDI-IV programme for the period 2008-2010. In doing so, UNDP should adjust its programme strategy to reflect an even greater pro-poor and livelihoods-based approach.

25. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/31 on assistance to Myanmar, approving the extension of the current phase of the HDI for the period 2008-2010.

IV. United Nations Development Fund for Women

26. Discussion of the report submitted pursuant to Executive Board decision 2006/5 on the response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 'Organizational Assessment: UNIFEM[1] Past, Present and Future' (report of the Advisory Panel to the UNIFEM Consultative Committee) (A/60/62-E/2005/10) was postponed until the first regular session 2007.

[1] The United Nations Development Fund for Women

V. United Nations Office for Project Services

27. Pursuant to decision 2006/17, the UNOPS Executive Director introduced the progress report on the implementation of the UNOPS action plan (DP/2006/45), which highlighted major accomplishments registered since (a) the establishment of the new corporate headquarters in Copenhagen on 3 July 2006; (b) the appointment of new staff; and (c) the establishment of an improved internal governance structure. Recalling the extension granted by the Board for the submission of the certified financial statements, the Executive Director informed the Board that the necessary clean-up of bad financial data and remedial work presented an opportunity to study the financial reporting procedures used and make structural improvements. The Executive Director reported that UNOPS was on track to meet the financial targets set for 2006.

28. Delegations congratulated UNOPS on the progress achieved towards implementing its action plan. While still concerned about the financial viability of UNOPS, delegations expressed confidence in the management team, requested that it continue reporting to the Board on the financial status of the organization, and reiterated the centrality of the self-financing principle at the core of UNOPS.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/33 expressing appreciation of the efforts under way to resubmit the 2004-2005 financial statements, and requesting UNOPS to present a report on its financial, administrative and operational situation at the first regular session 2007.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

VI. Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

30. The Chief, HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, and the Director, HIV/AIDS Group, UNDP, made a joint presentation introducing the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP-FPA/2006/1 – E/ICEF/2006/20), jointly elaborated by UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

31. Delegations appreciated the joint presentation by UNFPA and UNDP, as well as the joint report, and welcomed the regular reporting to the Executive Board. They noted the progress made in combating HIV/AIDS and emphasized the need to stay focused on halting and reversing the spread of the epidemic and scaling up access to prevention, treatment, care and support. They stressed that coherence should characterize the work of all partners in their different roles as co-sponsors, Member States and donors. Delegations were pleased to see the strengthened, coordinated efforts of United Nations organizations with regard to UNAIDS operational and governance issues. They stated that the coordination around the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors was an excellent example of United Nations coordination. Delegations encouraged further strengthening of coordination with

respect to division of labour, as well as in countries where there was a fragmented donor response.

32. Delegations welcomed the strengthened focus on engagement with civil society and underscored that this was a crucial element for mounting an effective HIV response. Noting that paragraph 13 of the joint report referred to joint programming for HIV prevention as increasingly becoming the main strategy for providing support at the country level, one delegation emphasized that treatment was as important as prevention. Another delegation requested additional information about the performance of Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS, and the relationship between those teams and the United Nations theme groups. The delegation encouraged UNAIDS co-sponsors to develop instruments for measuring the performance of United Nations organizations at the country level. Some delegations asked if the idea of a scorecard was being moved forward. Others emphasized the crucial role of the UNAIDS secretariat and the co-sponsors in supporting national efforts to set targets and maintain effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks. They hoped for more robust analysis in the future with respect to accomplishments, results, value added, and going to scale. Delegations noted that the Global Joint Problem-Solving and Implementation Support Team (GIST) had worked well as a 'light-touch' trouble-shooting mechanism. They were pleased that GIST membership was being expanded to include donors and civil society.

33. Delegations encouraged all organizations to address gender issues within the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They noted that this was also linked to the work of UNFPA and others with youth and would provide a stronger basis for responding to the needs of vulnerable groups affected by HIV/AIDS. Delegations commended the emphasis placed by UNFPA on including sex-disaggregated indicators in the development of poverty reduction strategy papers as a way to address the feminization of the epidemic. They encouraged United Nations organizations to address the feminization of the epidemic, including by scaling up strategies to meet the needs of women and girls. Underscoring the importance of gender assessments in national AIDS plans, delegations stated that the role of men and boys should be incorporated into the assessments.

34. Delegations appreciated the examples of the work of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP provided in annex 2 of the report. They noted that transparency and accountability would enhance and encourage coordination between organizations and would ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources in HIV programming. Delegations underscored that governments should ensure the sustainability of programmes by setting aside funds for use in combating the epidemic even if donor funding were to cease. They stressed the need to strengthen assistance to national AIDS coordination entities, was and underscored the importance of supporting the 'Three Ones' principles. Delegations recognized the importance of coordinated, complementary reproductive health and HIV/AIDS activities, such as integrating HIV voluntary counselling and testing services within reproductive health care and maternal and child health care. One delegation stated that particularly in high HIV-prevalence settings, voluntary family planning, reproductive health care and antenatal care clinics could be important venues for reaching women and their families with HIV prevention, treatment, counselling and testing, and other interventions.

35. The Chief, HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, appreciated the comments and suggestions of delegations. Concurring that treatment and prevention went hand in hand, he stressed that it should not be a case of either treatment or prevention, but rather of investment in a comprehensive approach including treatment, prevention, care and support in one core package. He noted that the recent international conference on HIV/AIDS held in Toronto, Canada, had underscored the importance of such an approach. He agreed that the GIST was functioning well as a light-touch trouble-shooting mechanism. He added that it was important to have an inclusive mechanism involving Member States, donors and civil society, while ensuring that the mechanism did not become excessively structured or bureaucratic. He agreed with the need to link sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS and emphasized that in order to beat the epidemic it would be critical to reach women and girls in venues where they went for health-care services, including family planning and maternal and child health-care services. He referred to a recent report from Sweden that highlighted the linkages between sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. He noted that the UNAIDS co-sponsors were focusing increasingly on monitoring and evaluation, including through the use of scorecards.

VII. Programming process

36. The President introduced this item recalling that a decision on the matter had been postponed at the annual session and that several informal consultations on the draft decision had taken place since that time.

37. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/36 on the review of the country programme approval process.

38. One delegation, while commending efforts to streamline the country programme approval process, cautioned that decision 2006/36 could have the effect of making the process too automatic. The delegation noted that approval of country programmes was the most important responsibility of the Executive Board, and expressed the hope that Board members would have the opportunity to engage in full discussions of the country programmes before approval.

VIII. Field visits

Joint field visit to Indonesia

39. The rapporteur (the delegate from Ukraine) introduced the report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to Indonesia from 8 to 22 March 2006 (DP-FPA/2006/CRP.2 and E/ICEF/2006/CRP.16.).

40. The team was pleased to note there had been strong country ownership of the UNDAF in Indonesia since its inception and that the framework was duly anchored in the common country assessment and the poverty reduction strategy paper. Yet although coordination among the specialized agencies, funds and programmes was present, the team felt that efforts to achieve coordination sometimes appeared

greater than the results. They noted that joint programming was a very important tool, particularly in the implementation phase.

41. The team found that the office of the United Nations resident coordinator was operating under a unique and effective arrangement. As such, the team noted that the way resources and delegation of authority were managed in the Indonesia office would be worth studying.

42. Participants commented that there was an insufficient level of coordination and collaboration between the United Nations organizations and the local authorities. In that connection, participants in the joint field visit paid particular attention to issues relevant to United Nations reform (such as simplification and harmonization and the resident coordinator system), and to donor coordination and harmonization aspects. The team indicated that United Nations organizations should set overall standards across the board for the projects that they initiate.

43. Participants recommended that relief and rehabilitation agencies provide training in entrepreneurship to local communities, especially to women, and extend small grants to local individuals who develop a feasible business plan. This effort to provide livelihoods could be done in the context of sustainable rehabilitation and recovery.

44. The team recommended that forthcoming joint field visits should complement their terms of reference with a matrix of issues and detailed questions to be addressed during the visit.

45. Members and participants expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to the authorities and people of Indonesia as well as to the entire United Nations country team.

UNFPA segment

IX. Statement by the Executive Director and Financial, administrative and budgetary matters

46. The Executive Director underscored that the international community found itself in a period of change, searching urgently for new ways to implement the development agenda. She stressed the importance of putting people first and focusing on the realization of their full range of human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health. She noted that the report of the High-Level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence was eagerly anticipated. She emphasized the need to develop national and local capacity and unleash the talents of people; slow the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV; improve reproductive health, including maternal health; and reduce the potential for social conflict. She noted that poverty eradication required greater progress in the areas of equity and human rights. She underscored the need to enhance global efforts to reduce gender-based violence and drew attention to the Brussels Call to Action issued at the International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, organized in June 2006 by UNFPA, the Belgian Government and the European Commission.

47. The Executive Director updated the Executive Board on the progress in the Campaign to End Fistula; and noted that UNFPA was looking forward to the Third International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2006. The Executive Director went on to highlight the following key issues: partnerships to maximize results, including with UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank; reproductive health commodity security; international migration and development; national ownership and leadership, including support to capacity development and South-South cooperation; regionalization; emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, transition and recovery; and financial matters, including the record increase in UNFPA resources in 2005. She also introduced the Annual Financial Review, 2005 (the full statement of the Executive Director is available on the UNFPA website, http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd).

48. Delegations appreciated the Executive Director's "inspiring" and "excellent" statement. Emphasizing the inextricable linkage between the ICPD goals and the MDGs, delegations underscored the key role of UNFPA in assisting countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and achieving the MDGs. They congratulated UNFPA on the record level of contributions received in 2005 and stated that it was a sign of the robust fiscal health of the Fund. Delegations emphasized the need for stable, predictable funding and underscored that core resources were the bedrock of UNFPA operations and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the carryover of resources from 2005 to 2006 and urged UNFPA to increase the rate of programme implementation and fully utilize the resources allocated for country programmes. They inquired about the increase in the biennial support budget (BSB). One delegation inquired about the fraud policy of UNFPA.

49. Delegations were interested to learn about UNFPA plans for regionalization, and several noted that it would provide a much stronger technical and support base to the UNFPA country offices. They asked to see the proposal in its entirety, including information on the relationship between regionalization costs and the benefits for country programmes. They noted the need to take the interests of all regions into account. Noting that they were awaiting the report of the High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence, they underscored that the ultimate goal of coherence should be an improved organization that could deliver real benefits at the community level. Delegations urged UNFPA to continue focusing on its areas of comparative advantage, particularly women and youth, and on linking HIV/AIDS to sexual and reproductive health services. They were pleased to note the collaboration among organizations on STIs, including HIV, and the linkage to maternal health.

50. Underscoring the importance of human security, one delegation stated that it regarded UNFPA as one of its main partners in promoting human security. Delegations commended UNFPA for its efforts to improve reproductive health, make motherhood safe and promote gender equality. Delegations appreciated UNFPA dialogue and partnership with other organizations such as UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank, including in the areas of reducing maternal, child and infant mortality. Delegations commended UNFPA commitment to and engagement in United Nations reform. They encouraged the Fund to invest more in South-South cooperation. They welcomed the launch of the *State of World Population 2006*, focusing on women and migration. Delegations supported the role of UNFPA in

emergency preparedness and humanitarian response and commended its role at the recent Stockholm donor conference for Lebanon's early recovery. Delegations underscored the key role of UNFPA in addressing gender-based violence and promoting reproductive health commodity security.

51. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board members for their support and guidance on United Nations reform and other issues, including regionalization. She confirmed that UNFPA was committed to promoting South-South cooperation, including support for Partners in Population and Development. She noted that UNFPA was working with countries on their national plans for addressing HIV/AIDS. She added that in 20 per cent of the countries where UNFPA worked it was chairing the United Nations theme group on HIV/AIDS. She underscored the work of UNFPA in comprehensive condom programming and welcomed the support delegations had expressed for linking reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programmes. She appreciated that one delegation had raised the issue of human security. In responding to the query of another delegation she confirmed that a fraud detection/prevention system was in place. She underscored that the Fund engaged in continuous self-auditing and was committed to accountability

52. Regarding United Nations reform, the Executive Director noted that UNFPA was actively working with partner organizations, inter alia, on common services, results-based budgeting, and implementation of the International Public Service Accounting Standards. A mechanism had also been established to enhance the coordination between the High-Level Committee on Management and the UNDG management group. She thanked the Executive Board for their support and guidance concerning regionalization. She noted that UNFPA would continue to work closely with the Board members and keep them informed through informal meetings as regionalization plans developed. She stated that the details would be shared with the Executive Board prior to the submission of the document for the first regular session 2007. She thanked the delegations for their appreciative comments on the *State of World Population 2006* and the special youth edition. She informed the Board that in 2007 the report would focus on urbanization issues, as would the youth edition.

53. The Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management, appreciated the comments of delegations. In responding to a query, she underscored that the slight increase in the percentage of the BSB expenditure was consistent with the increase in income to the Fund. She thanked delegations for emphasizing the importance of increased resource mobilization. She assured the Executive Board that UNFPA was firmly committed to using resources judiciously.

54. The Director, Division for Management Services, noted that during 2005 the dollar had strengthened and this had affected UNFPA field expenditures in local currencies. However, UNFPA had been able to maintain the BSB to income ratio at the previous level. Regarding the resources carried forward from 2005, he observed that, as noted by the Executive Director in her statement, there had been many reasons for that beyond the control of the Fund. However, with the implementation of additional monitoring tools within the Atlas system, especially for country offices, the Fund hoped to improve its expenditure rate. He emphasized the importance of UNFPA receiving early contributions, as this would help to avoid delays in implementation. He added that UNFPA would make consistent efforts to increase the programme implementation rate.

55. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/34, Annual financial review, 2005 (UNFPA).

X. UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

56. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the Chief, Humanitarian Response Unit, UNFPA, introduced the report on integrating the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development into emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery programmes: a strategy to build commitment and capacity (DP/FPA/2006/14). Speaking on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Director, New York Office of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser, Department of Peacekeeping (DPKO) made statements supporting the UNFPA corporate strategy on emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, transition and recovery. They praised UNFPA efforts, particularly with regard to gender mainstreaming, reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, population dynamics and data collection. They underscored their fruitful partnership with UNFPA, including its collaboration with DPKO within the new work in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

57. Delegations expressed strong appreciation for the efforts of the Executive Director and the work of UNFPA in emergency, crisis and post-crisis situations ranging from Kyrgyzstan to Sudan. They noted that UNFPA had a key role to play in promoting reproductive health and gender mainstreaming in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery. One delegation praised UNFPA as the "unsung hero" in Darfur, Sudan, for its contributions. Delegations commended the UNFPA plan to build national capacity for response and recovery, including that of women's organizations. They appreciated the fact that capacity-building was to be a foundation of the corporate strategy. They agreed that reliable demographic data, including gender-disaggregated data, was essential. It was underscored that gender-based violence issues and human rights should be well reflected in poverty reduction strategy papers. They sought assurance that the expanded role of UNFPA would not result in duplication of activities. Delegations stressed that UNFPA must ensure coordination with other agencies, including within existing coordination mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (IASC).

58. Delegations were pleased to hear that the UNFPA emergency preparedness and humanitarian response strategy would be folded into the forthcoming medium-term strategic plan, 2008-2011. They encouraged UNFPA to complete the work on outcome indicators and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and to ensure regular reporting to the Executive Board. Delegations asked for information regarding the role of the Fund in the cluster approach, noting that mainstreaming gender in all the clusters remained an issue. They asked for clarification regarding the staffing and posts envisaged under the new strategy. Some delegations stated that they saw the UNFPA role mainly in advocacy. Some delegations stated that they were not clear on how the trust funds mentioned in the document related to the

United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

59. The Executive Director underscored that the UNFPA corporate strategy on emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery was another example of the Fund's emphasis on being country focused and committed to national capacity-building. She stated that UNFPA was at a crossroads and much was being asked of the Fund. She emphasized that the support of the Executive Board was essential for UNFPA to deliver on its mandate and meet the development needs of people around the globe.

60. The Chief, Humanitarian Response Unit, thanked the delegations for their support. Regarding CAPs and the CERF, she clarified that these were the two major funding mechanisms of United Nations system for acute emergencies. UNFPA had participated in CAPs for a number of years, focusing primarily on reproductive health, prevention/management of gender-based violence, and data collection. She added that UNFPA had used resources from its own emergency fund for "forgotten emergencies". She pointed out that the CERF was a recent mechanism, managed by OCHA, that sought to provide more egalitarian and equitable funding to United Nations organizations, including for "forgotten emergencies". However, CERF funding was for immediate use (within a period of three to six months). She underscored that neither the CAPs nor the CERF could provide funding for the planning, capacity development, training, 'standard setting, development and dissemination of capacity-building tools envisaged under the UNFPA corporate strategy.

61. Regarding staffing and posts, she noted that these were for local, national, regional and headquarters levels, including secondment of some posts to OCHA, DPKO, government entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). She assured the Executive Board that the corporate strategy would be smoothly rolled into the medium-term strategic plan. Concerning the UNFPA collaboration with development partners and its role in the IASC and the clusters, she hoped that the statements made by representatives of OCHA and DPKO would have clarified the positive way in which UNFPA was viewed by its partners. She underscored the close collaboration with OCHA, DPKO, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNIFEM, WFP, WHO and various NGOs, including the Red Cross. Regarding the cluster approach she noted that UNFPA was in the health cluster and had been asked to lead in gender mainstreaming, including training of trainers and prevention/management of gender-based violence. She drew attention to UNFPA support for Security Council resolution 1325, including support for capacity-building of women's organizations in conflict and post-conflict situations; and to the Brussels Call to Action issued at the recent symposium held in Belgium on preventing sexual violence in conflict situations.

62. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/35: UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery.

XI. Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

63. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced the 22 draft country programme documents submitted to the Executive Board for discussion, namely for:

Algeria, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Senegal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

64. In praising the draft country programme documents and offering constructive suggestions, delegations underlined the importance of country ownership and stressed that this should be inclusive of the views of a wide range of interested stakeholders. They emphasized that it was important for the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the country team to keep lines of communication open among all stakeholders, including civil society and non-governmental organizations, and to give them sufficient time to provide thoughtful and well-considered inputs. In underscoring the importance of harmonization and coordination, delegations noted that the UNDAFs, where they existed, were important documents for guiding the development of the country programme documents. Delegations stated that, overall, their experience with the evolving process had been positive and that the quality of country programme documents had been improving over time. Several delegations whose draft country programme documents were being discussed took the floor to thank UNFPA for its valuable support to their countries. They commended UNFPA efforts in addressing population and development issues, including reproductive health, maternal mortality, emergency obstetric care, skilled attendance at birth, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender. Some delegations commented on specific draft country programme documents. One delegation, noting that its country offered a true laboratory of good practice in the area of South-South cooperation, stated that it was ready to share its experience with other countries.

65. The delegation of Japan reiterated, for the record, its position noted earlier in the session concerning the draft country programme documents for the Democratic Republic of Korea. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Korea responded by referring to its earlier statement clarifying its position with regard to the statement by the delegation of Japan.

66. The Directors of the Africa Division, the Asia and the Pacific Division, the Division for Arab States, Central Asia and Europe, and the Latin America and the Caribbean Division appreciated the positive comments and suggestions and responded to the specific comments and queries of Executive Board members. They confirmed that national ownership and partnerships with civil society and other stakeholders were fundamental dimensions of UNFPA-supported country programmes. They assured the Executive Board that the comments from Board members would be conveyed to the concerned countries.

67. The Executive Board took note of the 22 draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon.